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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

April 8, 2013

Senator Pat Toomey
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Toomey:

The majority of state legislators in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives believe that the right to bear arms must be vigorously defended, as evidenced by the passage of Castle Doctrine (Act 10 of 2011). Here in Pennsylvania, we have a longstanding history in support of our God-given, constitutionally-affirmed Second Amendment freedom. We swore to uphold and defend both the Pennsylvania and United States Constitutions the day we took office. As Article 1, Section 21 of our state Constitution reads, *"The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."* We stand in defense of our Constitutions.

We write to you today to request that you stand with us. As part of our elected representation in Washington, D.C., we urge you to reject any compromise that would advance any new gun control measures, including "universal" or "comprehensive" background checks that are being advocated for by New York City Mayor Bloomberg, Obama, Biden, Senator Chuck Schumer or any other individuals seeking to violate the rights of law abiding citizens instead of stopping criminals. Our country does not need additional gun control laws from the federal or state levels of government. We should work to actively enforce our current laws; to stop those who are committing crimes against their fellow citizens.

In 2011, just in Pennsylvania alone, our citizens purchased over 600,000 firearms and our county sheriffs issued over 166,000 licenses to carry firearms, according to data from the Pennsylvania State Police. Meanwhile, crimes committed with firearms continue to decrease as issuance of licenses to carry firearms increases. Since 2006, Pennsylvania has seen an over 20 percent reduction in violent crimes committed with firearms. These statistics prove that an armed law abiding citizenry is the best deterrent to crime.

Enhanced gun control measures ultimately hinder the freedoms of law abiding citizens. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Those who desire to give up freedom in order to gain security will not have, nor do they deserve, either one."

We encourage and expect you to stand with us to protect our God-given right to keep and bear arms.

For Liberty,

Daryl D. Metcalfe
State Representative

DDM: jli
CC: Pennsylvania Congressional Republican Delegation

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